

New York Tribune

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UPHELD BY THE COURT.

The opponents of the subway contracts have had their day in court and are worsted. The unanimous opinion of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is that there is nothing in their charges of waste, fraud and illegality. The allegation that the public account suffer because the Interborough company's bonds were to go to J. P. Morgan & Co. for 93 1/2% is disposed of thus in Presiding Justice Ingraham's opinion: "It is entirely immaterial, so far as the city is concerned, what the Interborough Railroad Company pays for the money that it is to obtain, so long as the contributions for interest and amortization to be paid out of the receipts are calculated upon the amount invested, and not upon the amount of the bonds issued, which is the plain provision of the contract."

As to the allegation that an excessive sum is allowed in the preferential payment as equivalent to average earnings of the present subway the court says that if this is so "it is one clause of many in the contracts, some in favor of the railroad and some in favor of the city." That is to say, it was given and taken. The city made concessions to the company on one point in order to obtain concessions from the company on another. That is a fact which is deliberately overlooked by those who are attacking the contracts. They pick upon this and that provision and make an outcry, but they suppress the advantages to the city that have been purchased by the concessions to which they object. Instead of being a plan that will waste the people's money, the dual system is a plan that will save the people's money. Millions of dollars annually in extra fares will be saved to the public through extending the existing systems so that passengers can ride where they want to for a single fare.

The court speaks of part of the Hearst complaint as "frivolous." It might have gone further and thrown the whole complaint out as frivolous and intended only to produce delay. But it has done better. It has submitted the complaint to the cold light of analysis, and the city now knows how empty it is. The public has now the deliberate judgment of two courts in favor of the contracts. Those who are fighting to preserve the double fare are fully exposed.

ARTLESS DODGERS.

The decision of the House Judiciary Committee to pass over to the next Congress the responsibility of submitting a single term amendment is a confession of infirmity of purpose on the part of the House Democratic leaders. The lower branch of Congress is strongly Democratic, and the Democratic party at its last national convention pledged itself as definitely as it could to the principle of a single term for Presidents. The Senate, which is still anti-Democratic, made good the Baltimore convention's promise, yet the House, for reasons which, refuses to co-operate in facilitating a highly desirable political reform.

The Democratic party has always been strong on making engagements with the voters, but deplorably weak on reducing them to terms of performance. There can be little doubt that the present House would vote to submit a clarified single term amendment. Yet the Democratic leaders evidently fear to let it act lest action might give offense to an incoming administration which has not yet announced what parts of the national platform are entitled to recognition in a Democratic "programme" and what should be "shunted into oblivion as the unhappy inspirations of the moment."

We do not believe, however, that the single term amendment can be disposed of so conveniently as a pledge with no political collateral behind it. The new House will be more largely Democratic than the present one, and the Senate after March 4 will pass into Democratic control. Congress must act on its own responsibility in submitting constitutional amendments. The President does not need to approve such legislation, and cannot veto it. How, then, can it profit the Democratic party in Congress to hide its head in the sand now, when it will have to face next session with fuller power than ever the same problem of honoring or repudiating its notes of hand? Nothing compelled the Baltimore convention to declare in favor of a single term. It was not repeating an inherited demand, but was going out of its way to give voice to a new one. It made its choice deliberately for the sake of political advantage, and it cannot hope ever to square itself with the voters if it takes the position that it did not mean to have the promise apply to the candidate whom it explicitly pledged to a championship of the single term principle.

The House leaders may think that they can successfully dodge voting on a

single term amendment. But they are woefully mistaken. Public opinion will hold them to their party's promise, else some new Bryan will arise to call them "honest steers," or some new Cleveland to pillory them as practitioners of "perfidy and dishonor."

HEROES.

A grim and mournful consolation is derived from Scott's last message to the world. It makes clear the circumstances of the tragedy. It leaves no doubt concerning the cause and the manner of the disaster, or the responsibility—or lack of responsibility—for it. The whole may be summed up in a single word: Misfortune. There was no neglect of preparation. There was no error of organization. There was no failure of resolution. There was no lack of endurance, at least to the utmost limit of human powers. There was simply a persistence of climatic rigors against which flesh and blood could not stand and which no human provision could foresee.

The five heroes of the triumphant but fatal dash to the pole are entitled to equal honors, but there are two who must never be invested with peculiar interest to a world which appreciates the spirit of manhood at its best. One was Oniz, of the Inuitkilling Dragons. That famous regiment has won glory on many fields, but never higher than that of this solitary member in the Great Lone Land. There was not bloodshed, but even that must give place to the courage of the man who, sick and helpless and unwilling to be a burden to his three comrades who were fighting for their lives, simply said: "I am going outside for a while," and went into the darkness of the polar tempest.

The other was Scott himself. There has never, we think, been anything quite like his writing of that simple, brief, convincing and ingeniously pathetic *aurora subitanea*. There are few men temperamentally capable of thus writing, with death impatiently fluttering the tent flap. But he wrote as calmly and as collectedly as though he were back in London drafting the story for the Geographical Society. And there could be no man possessed of a nobler spirit than that which moved him to give his last thoughts and his most earnest words to the welfare of his surviving comrades. For himself and the few who perished with him there was no repining. "We took risks," he knew we took them. Things "have come out against us; and we have no cause for complaint; but bow to the will of Providence, determined still to do our best to the last." Those are golden words, worthy of record with the best. There were brave men before Agamemnon, and this posthumous message from the Antarctic solitudes reminds us that the breed is not extinct, and will not be while man inhabits his world.

NEW GRAFTERS FOR OLD.

The only reason for the establishment of a separate police force to deal with excise law violations, prostitution and gambling, as suggested by Mayor Gaynor, is to secure a body of men who can be kept under discipline by the power of instant removal. The present intrenchments which protect grafting policemen ought to be cut down, but that is difficult, and perhaps impossible, owing to the pension fund, in which the policemen have a property right. The scheme of a separate force is naturally suggested as a way to evade the difficulty of making the police administration itself honest. But, after all, it is only an evasion, another measure of "outward order and decency," not a radical cure.

This Mayor himself confesses. He says the new force would be subject to the same temptations and would be corrupted more or less, "but their misdeeds would not reflect on the police force. The police force would be engaged solely in preserving order and decency and in the detection and prevention of ordinary crimes, in which the opportunities for graft are small." That is a case of making a desert and calling it peace. He would put the corruption in another department so as to say that the Police Department was good. And that is all that it would amount to before long, in spite of free removals. If the new force was administered in the same spirit as the present one, we should duplicate our police administration at great expense to get practically the same safeguards against grafting which we had under Becker's "strong arm" squad.

There was a separate force to deal with vice, entirely distinct from the ordinary police administration, and differing only from the Mayor's scheme in the matter of tenure. Yet it was not the tenure of this body which entitled the partner instead of the enemy of vice. So far as that work was concerned Becker and his men were at the Commissioner's mercy. He could not arbitrarily dismiss them, but he could arbitrarily detach them from the squad and send them to patrol cow pastures. He had just as much chance to create an honest vice squad and change it on the merest suspicion as the head of a new force would have. But he was blind to its faults; he set Becker to investigate himself; he let the corruption go right up to Headquarters. A new force similarly administered would be corrupt, even though it was subject to arbitrary removal.

How little the Mayor realizes, or is willing to admit, the vital truth of the situation is seen from his attributing the present revelations to the revolt of the underworld at what he considers faithful enforcement of the law. But there was no faithful enforcement in those cases. The enforcement was merely an instrument of oppression. It was not undertaken from a sense of duty, but to carry on the "system" of blackmail, or to serve the purposes of some stronger rival buyer of protection. The enforcement on which the Mayor prides himself was merely the "system's" own use of the law for corrupt purposes. The spirit which regards that as satisfactory, finds corruption merely incidental and wants the new force so that "whatever cor-

ruption there might be in that force "would not reflect on the police force," would be equally satisfied with "outward order and decency" in the new department. The Mayor and his Commissioner who could not entertain a suspicion of a grafting captain or inspector, though everybody else suspected them, would be equally blind to another set of servants. We should merely get new grafters for old.

A PHILOSOPHER.

Who says that Tammany is not an organization of philosophers? Mr. Murphy's district leaders may not all read Epictetus, but it is clear that some of them can fairly rival the Mayor in their large view of humanity and their calm and tolerant temper toward its faults. Here, for instance, is Mr. Cruise, the district leader, who had several conversations with Purcell, the gambler, about protection for a gambling house. Cruise and Purcell differ over details of the conversations. The gambler charges him with assisting in the deal for a price. The leader denies that, but admits that Purcell asked him three times to arrange for police protection. And here was where his philosophy came in. Mr. Becker's question and his answer reveal a genial follower of Antisthenes:

Q.—Weren't you insulted when he came to you three times?

A.—No, I have fanner contracts than that.

This is better than William S. Gilbert. His grifter knew an insult when he pocketed it. But the district leader simply can't be insulted. Ask him to join in a scheme of corruption and he is merely reminded of the "fanner contracts" he has on hand.

We wonder what those "fanner contracts" are.

"WHAT 'T WAS ALL ABOUT."

The discouraging and ominous feature of the revolutionary movements in Mexico, and that which differentiates them from those which have occurred in some other countries, is their apparent aimlessness. When England revolted against the Stuarts there was no uncertainty as to the protection or the purpose of the uprising. When France overthrew the Bourbons the aim of the revolution was clear. There was no question as to "what 't was all about" in 1776 or in 1861. It is possible to have a certain degree of respect for a revolution with definite and delicately expressed aims, even though we may not approve them.

But when Old Caspar is compelled to answer Little Peterkin's queries with "Why, that I cannot tell," no fame of victory can altogether justify the fight. There was some pretence of aim and purpose when Madero led his insurrection against Porfirio Diaz. It was patent to the world that the Diaz administration had become a dynasty and that despotic abuses existed; there were vague promises that all that would be changed and that a real democracy would be developed, and there were those who were so credulous or so optimistic as to believe in the immediate realization of those promises. As a matter of fact, there is little or no evidence of material steps toward such a realization.

The same feature of aimlessness is exhibited by these later uprisings against Madero, Orozco, Zapata, Reyes, Felix Diaz—what cause, what issues, does any of them represent, save personal ambition or greed? None has been made known to the world. There is no bill of complaints against Madero, there is no programme of reforms to be effected. Of course, there is no pretence that Madero lacks a legal title to his office. There is nothing, so far as the world is able to ascertain, but a demand that those who are in small get out in order that those who are out may get in, under the time-discounted rule that they should take who have the power and they should keep who can. In brief, Mexico seems to have fallen back into the old condition of being the prey of whatever adventurous chieftain can for the time marshal the most followers in his pursuit of power and loot. She was held from that during Diaz's long reign simply by his arbitrary power, and not by her own enlightened will. The lesson of constitutional "government of the people by the people, for the people" had not yet been learned in the great region beyond the Rio Grande.

RECOGNITION FOR MEADE.

The Senate has just passed a bill to furnish a site and pedestal for a statue in Washington of Major General George G. Meade. The government will contribute \$100,000, and the figure to be supplied by the State of Pennsylvania, will cost \$200,000. It is due to General Meade's fame and services that he should have a memorial at the national capital. Other Civil War veterans have been thus honored whose claims to military distinction are no higher than his. There are already statues of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, McPherson, McClellan, Hancock and Logan. Hancock was Meade's subordinate in the Army of the Potomac, and as the head of that army for nearly two years Meade's status was more important than that of Thomas, McPherson or Logan, and his service was longer and probably greater than that of McClellan.

Under Meade the Army of the Potomac came at last into competent hands after suffering sorely from the military failings of McClellan, Burnside and Hooker. He was not a showy or daring commander, but he knew how to handle troops and was never taken at a disadvantage. General Lee noted the change and modified his tactics accordingly in the long period between Gettysburg and the Wilderness. It was Meade's misfortune to have sadly disappointed the country by his apparent indecision during Lee's retreat from Gettysburg to the Potomac. He was more cautious than Lincoln and had been a great triumph for himself to what he considered the best interests of the army and the country.

No one can tell now whether he was right or wrong, yet he inevitably suffered from not taking risks freely, as Lee and Jackson never hesitated to do.

Lincoln was just enough, however, to recognize the ability with which Meade had fought what was even then seen to be the most decisive battle of the war. In that battle he gained glory enough possibly for any one soldier, and for his service there he will be always gratefully remembered. Pennsylvania has erected a striking equestrian statue of him on the Gettysburg field, and with the co-operation of Congress will now properly honor him with another statue in Washington.

The Age of Chivalry is not past.

The Emperor of Japan may still be worshipped as a semi-divine being, but he does not seem to be able to reflect enough of his divinity upon a Prime Minister to save the latter from the irreverent fury of the Tokio mob.

The famous Lines of Bolivar seem to be justifying their repute.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs has heard from the people. It voted yesterday, 14 to 7, to authorize the construction of two new battleships. Even the Democratic party is capable of being educated in spots.

Kansas may be able to print her own textbooks more cheaply than she can buy them. But what will she do in the case of desirable works which are copyrighted, as a large proportion of them are? Must she cling to those of an earlier generation on which the copyright has expired? Or is she going to have a lot of brand new textbooks written to her own order by Sunflower sages?

If Governor Wilson had clung to the name his parents gave we can't think, somehow, of any one calling him "Tom."

The baseball schedules are coming out. That is a sign of spring which cannot be successfully disputed either by Director Moore or by the groundhog.

Why doesn't Mayor Gaynor take Governor Sulzer's hint and declare himself in on the movement back to the soil?

By losing \$5,000 a week for five months on his London opera venture the imitable Oscar has certainly clinched his claim to be ranked among the great improvers of history.

The present outlook in the British-Chinese opium controversy seems to be about this: That Great Britain proposes to keep her part of the anti-opium compact, whether China keeps hers or not. If that purpose is fulfilled, it will be greatly to the credit of the power which has suffered much reproach for her imputed responsibility for the opium trade in China.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

In speaking of Professor Burr G. Wilder, who recently retired from Cornell University after an active life of forty years, "The Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette" says: "He has demonstrated by his long and industrious life the great advantages of wholesome and temperate living. In the college life at Cornell he has vigorously opposed smoking by the students, and coined the term 'smoke' to designate a man who smokes in public or in any place where non-smokers have equal rights. The first two letters of this new word were evidently supplied through a sense of justice to the hog."

Mrs. Goodbody—What does your husband think of these militant suffragists?

Mrs. Vink-Senn—He doesn't know what he thinks. I haven't told him yet.—Chicago Tribune.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Some master of the royal rhythm of speech. Said truly, that of thee the final word would never be written: that thy life would teach.

Each day a lesson, oft retold and heard. In many tongues, in lands afar and near. That generations yet unborn would heed. Thy homely precepts and give willing ear. To learn how well thou met'st the nation's need.

How by thy hand unshackled were the slaves. And Freedom's banner fully purged of stain. Even though it cost a million heroes' graves. And years of anguish, yet 'twas not in vain.

Thy soul goes marching on, and o'er us waves One Nation's flag, unsullied to remain. FRANCIS R. GESSNER.

HONEST ABE.

Honest Abe was a simple man. A simple man and rare. His mind was a true divining rod. He marched straight on, and he marched with God.

Loving the soil on which he trod, And mankind everywhere.

Honest Abe was a loyal man. A loyal man and true. His eyes shone bright with righteous light. He marched straight on, in the darkest night.

Cheering the weak with his words of might. Giving each one his due.

Honest Abe was a noble man. A man of the helping hand. His soul was filled with Freedom's song. It sounded clear as he marched along.

Seeking the way to right a wrong. Heavy upon the land.

And Honest Abe was a Working Man. Born of a lowly name. By the cabin door that gave him birth, He learned the labor of the earth.

While he marched straight on to take his share. Into the halls of fame.

—Thomas Tappan in The Evening Telegraph, Philadelphia.

Fair Visitor—Why are you giving Dido's teeth such a thorough brushing?

Fond Mistress—Oh! The poor darling's just bitten some horrid person and, really, you know, one can't be too careful.—Life.

The Russian monk—Brother Idiot—who was recently banished has taken steps toward establishing a new religion, and the activity of a large following has, according to a St. Petersburg letter, "given the Church authorities much concern." In the catechism which the monk has written he is designated as an apostle. Brotherly love and duty to fellow man is

the fundamental principle of the new religion. "This love," says the book, "shall be so far-reaching that it shall exclude no one because of race or ancestry." The followers of the new religion shall form working communities, in which "free men and women shall be recognized as equals." Religious services shall consist of songs in praise of reason, the sun, the earth, water and the woods. "The Russian saints are cast aside and in their stead the names of Buddha, Christ, Confucius, Tolstoy and Mahomet are made 'sacred'."

Wife—What do you mean by telling Mrs. Crews's husband you never ask my advice about anything?

Husband—Well, my dear, I don't. You don't wait to be asked.—Tit-Bits.

TWO BILLS AT ALBANY.

They Concern Welfare of Woman and Should Have Her Special Interest.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Two bills affecting the interests of women have been introduced into the Legislature at Albany. The first bill, introduced by Senator Herrick on January 1, would limit the wife's interest in her husband's real estate to dower only in property held by him at his death, and would destroy her interest in all his real estate held during his life. The wife may have saved and slaved in the household to help set the money together with which to buy the property, and to deprive her of all interest in it during her husband's life is unfair and unjust to the wife. When a young woman elects to become a wife, mother and housekeeper, instead of making a career for herself, as so many women are now doing, she does the state a distinct service. When she decides to take upon herself a life of sacrifice to bear and bring up citizens of the state, her interests should be safeguarded and not impaired by law, in only one home out of every forty-six in the United States is the husband able to provide help in the household for the wife. This means that the mother not only bears and rears children, but she is the household drudge besides. Is it not unfair and ungrateful of the state to so tie her hands that an unkind husband can sell the roof over her head?

The women of the state should oppose the enactment of Senate bill No. 7 by writing to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, Albany, without delay.

The other is a bill in the interest of eugenics and has been introduced for the last three years at the instance of the Legislative League. It would require applicants for a marriage license to file a physician's certificate that the applicant is free from venereal disease. This bill should be enacted into law. The wife should be protected from infection with the diseases of vice, in the living of her life as the mother of the race. At present the cattle and hogs of New York State are better protected from degenerative, destructive diseases than are the wives and children of men. Many organizations of men and women have endorsed this bill. All thoughtful men and women who have the welfare of the human race at heart should write to the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at Albany, favoring the passage of Senate bill No. 8, introduced by Senator Duhamel.

HELEN M. BENT.

New York, Jan. 21, 1913.

ANTIS AND VICE DEALERS.

Fighting Side by Side Against Suffrage, Says Mrs. De Forest.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Miss Clittenden's article in your issue of February 1, entitled "Suffragists Accused of Spreading Falsehood," would have been better headed, "Suffragists Fairly Accused."

The banners carried in the parade of May 4 last year, read: "New York State Denies the Vote to Criminals, Idiots and Women." The fact that criminals, idiots and women are not all mentioned in the same article of the Constitution does not alter the fact. They are excluded classes. Originally the Constitution of the United States read, "every citizen," but when women tried to vote the word "male" was inserted in Article XIV, and therefore women were excluded. In New Jersey and Virginia women actually did vote for many years, and were later excluded.

It is undoubtedly very disagreeable to feel that you are classed with criminals and idiots. But the fact that the words "female citizen" do not appear in the same line with them, and the fact that those words do not appear in the Constitution does not any the more change the fact that women are in the same class as lunatics and criminals. They are an excluded class.

It must also be extremely disagreeable to Miss Clittenden to feel that she is invariably linked in the minds of suffragists with liquor dealers and the managers of organized vice. The fact that these two associations are not members of the Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage does not change the condition of affairs.

These two associations, together with the New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, are our opponents. They are all ranged on the same side and fighting for a common cause. They are spending money and holding meetings to attain the same end, and will become more and more closely connected in our minds as the fight grows hotter and hotter, as the anti-suffrage coffers are filled from all three associations.

NORA BLATCH DE FOREST.

New York, Feb. 6, 1913.

A HOMOEOPATHIC LETTER.

Woman's Suffrage Arguments Boiled Down Into a Sentence.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Why do women demand the vote? It is necessary that war, alcoholism and "white slavery" go where cannibalism, human sacrifice and chattel slavery have gone.

That is why women desire to vote.

MARY BROWN.

New York, Feb. 10, 1913.

DIPLOMAT UNDER THE KNIFE.

Dominican Minister in Hospital Here Recovering from Operation.

Francisco J. Peynado, Minister from Santo Domingo to the United States, is in the French Hospital, where a minor operation was performed by Dr. Antonio M. Crispin, of No. 34 Lexington avenue. It was announced last night that Señor Peynado was resting comfortably, and that the operation was entirely successful.

TO GIVE DRAMA IN SCHOOLS.

The People's Institute has organized an "Educational Dramatic League" to introduce drama in the city schools and settlements along educational lines. Shakespeare and other dramas of a high order will be produced in the spring. Mrs. August Belmont has been elected president, Miss Katherine Oglebay vice-president, Miss James Dunn Livingston secretary and James F. Cushman treasurer.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Dances Still Continue to Figure on the Programmes.

The third of the series of four dances organized by Mrs. J. Rich Steers, Mrs. G. Howard Davis, Mrs. Henry G. Trevor, Mrs. Frederick P. Deland and Mrs. Stove Phelps was held last night at Sherry's. Several small dinners were held in conjunction with the affair, the hostesses afterward taking their guests to Sherry's. Among the subscribers are Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Dinsmore, Mr. and Mrs. Donn Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Riker, Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Vollenweider, Mr. and Mrs. J. Prentice Kellogg, Mr. and Mrs. James Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hunt. The final dance will be held next Tuesday at Sherry's.

Another dance of last night was held by Mrs. Charles W. Haskins at her house, in East 72d street, for her daughter, Miss Ruth Haskins. There was general dancing throughout the evening and supper was served at midnight. The guests numbered about fifty.

Mrs. Cornelius C. Cuyler has invitations out for a dinner dance at Sherry's for the day after to-morrow.

Mrs. Henry Clews gave a small dinner last night at her house, in Fifth avenue.

Dinners were also held last night by Mrs. William D. Guthrie at her house, in Park avenue, and by W. Rhinelander Stewart at his residence, in East 57th street. Mr. Stewart's guests numbered eighteen.

The sewing class that works for the Fresh Air Association of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine held its first meeting yesterday morning at the home of Mrs. Frederic E. Lewis, No. 21 West 82d street. It was entertained by Miss Louise Wyman, who gave a costume review of English and Dutch ballads and Breton peasant songs. Next week the class will meet with Mrs. Richard Irish, No. 1 West 39th street. Mrs. John Blair is chairman of the committee. Mrs. Augustus B. Field treasurer, and the directors include Mrs. John H. Seelin, Mrs. Franklin B. Lord, Mrs. Frederick Roosevelt, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Irvin, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. John Greenough.

Mrs. Henri de Sincay, who has been here several weeks with her mother, Mrs. John A. Logan, sailed yesterday to rejoin her husband in Brussels.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm D. Whitman have leased Attorney General Wickensham's country place, Marshfields, at Cedarhurst, for a term of two years. The Attorney General and Mrs. George W. Wickensham are leaving early next month for an extended trip around the world, sailing from San Francisco. Mrs. Malcolm D. Whitman was Miss Jennie Crocker, of San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. W. De Lancey Kountze started yesterday for Maryland, and will be absent for about a week.

Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York, sails at the end of the week, with Monsignor Lewis, for Porto Rico, to preside at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the creation of the first episcopal diocese in the New World.

Mrs. Frederick Eley and Miss Julia Eley have gone to Palm Beach.

Miss Janet Fish, daughter of Hamilton Fish, has left town for Palm Beach, to stay there with Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. McLean.

WASHINGTON.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, February 11.

At the White House.

Invitations were issued from the White House to-day for a dinner and musical on February 21. Mrs. Taft has accepted an invitation to the dinner to be given in New York by the Peace and Arbitration League at Sherry's on February 23. The dinner will be in honor of President Taft, and the

TAFT DINNER PLANNED.

Capital Business Men to Show Gratitude for His Aid.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Feb. 11.—The President will be the honor guest at a banquet to be given by Washington citizens at the New Willard Hotel on February 20. It is expected that he will talk plainly about the needs of the national capital. Arrangements are being made by the Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association and other civic bodies. President Taft has taken a keen interest in district affairs and the business interests regard him as the best friend they ever had in the White House. The committee in charge of the dinner expects about five hundred persons to attend, including officials of the government and prominent men from other cities. Acceptances have been received from many members of Congress; Charles H. Hille, secretary to the President; Major Rhoads, the President's military aid, and others. D. J. Callahan, president of the Chamber of Commerce, will preside, and Theodore W. Noyes will deliver an address in behalf of the city.

COLUMBIA ALUMNI GATHER.

Expected 5,000 "Grads" Will Attend Reunion—Hamiltoniana on View.

The alumni of Columbia University will hold their annual reunion to-day. The special alumni dinner will follow the Columbia-Pennsylvania "varsity" basketball game in the gymnasium this evening. It is expected five thousand graduates will take part in the celebration. A noteworthy collection of the manuscripts of Alexander Hamilton, lent by Dr. Allan MacLane Hamilton, and a collection of Columbia writers, will be placed on view for the first time in the university library this morning. The Hamiltoniana include Greek and other exercises written by Hamilton when a schoolboy, letters to the famous trespass cases.

The alumni are to be the guests of the university commons at luncheon, and in the afternoon will gather at Earl Hall to discuss the method of electing alumni members of the board of trustees.

A BARGAIN AT THAT PRICE.

From The Philadelphia Record. In view of recent disclosures \$15,000 seems to be a very low price for the post of police captain in New York.

Invitation to Mrs. Taft was presented through Mrs. Elmer Black, vice-chairman of the committee in charge, who came to Washington for the purpose.

President Taft will go to Philadelphia to-morrow afternoon to attend the fifth anniversary dinner of the Union League. Every member of the Cabinet, except Secretary Fisher, is expected to accompany Mr. Taft.

The Cabinet.

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Knox will leave Washington on March 5 for Palm Beach, where it has been their custom for several years to spend part of the spring season. They will remain at the Royal Poinciana until it closes and will then start North, stopping at the Arkansas Hot Springs and other places. They expect to spend May in their Washington home.

Mr. and Mrs. Knox were the guests of honor at a dinner to-night, with General and Mrs. John A. Johnston as hosts.

Attorney General Wickensham was the guest of honor at a dinner to-night given by his colleagues in the Department of Justice, at which President Taft and about sixty of the Attorney General's friends were present.

The Diplomatic Corps.

The British Ambassador and Mrs. Bly will go to New York on Thursday to meet several social engagements.

The Peruvian Minister and Mme. Pezet entertained a large dinner party to-night, their guests including the Secretary of War and Mrs. Stimson, the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, Representative and Mrs. McCall, Representative and Mrs. Fairchild, the French Naval Attaché and Viscountess Benoit d'Azay, Mrs. Reynolds R. Hunt, wife of the minister to Guatemala, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hennick, Señor Don Manuel Wallis y Merino, Spanish First Secretary